

Federal Government's role in education. I am not satisfied with the status quo, and neither are Nevada parents. After 36 years, the system is ripe for change. On behalf of Nevada families, I intend to press for that change.

I know that Nevadans have a fighting spirit to make our schools the best in the country—a fighting spirit that has been passed on, starting with our settlers, from one generation to the next. Our battle-born State was formed by facing up to difficult challenges, and we are up for the challenge of making sure that when it comes to education, no child is left behind.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I thank the Senator from Nevada.

Under the previous order, the senior Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID, is recognized for 5 minutes.

COMMENDING SENATOR ENSIGN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for more than 30 years, Senator Richard Bryan and I served together in various public offices. We took the bar together. We became inseparable friends. We were known in Nevada—and are still known—as the “Gold Dust Twins.” So when Senator Bryan decided to retire, it was a tremendous personal blow to me. I really miss Richard.

But in life you move on. I feel so fortunate to be able to serve with JOHN ENSIGN. JOHN and I have known each other for a long time. His family, prior to 1998, were some of my biggest supporters. In 1998, of course, we ran against each other. It was an extremely close race, one of the closest races in the history of the State of Nevada, and, of course, in the history of the country.

It is easy to be gracious when you win; it is not so easy when you lose. It shows the goodness of a person as to how they are able to take defeat. JOHN ENSIGN could write a book on how people who suffer adversity should react.

Twenty-four years prior to that race between REID and ENSIGN, I lost a very close race in the State of Nevada. I didn't handle it nearly as well as JOHN ENSIGN handled his loss. I only wish I had handled the loss in 1974 the way JOHN ENSIGN did in 1998. To his credit, not only did he handle it, as my father would say, “as a man,” he handled it extremely well. Not only that, he came back and 2 years later was elected to the Senate. One reason he was elected as easily as he was is how he handled the loss in 1998.

I am happy to be on the floor today at the time of the maiden speech of the junior Senator from the State of Nevada. I am sure his parents were watching on C-SPAN, and I know how proud they are. His father is a very quiet man. He goes to very few public functions. When he does, he is easy to find because he is always back someplace,

usually alone, watching his son. His mother is more in the mix of things, but I am sure they were watching this morning as their son delivered his first speech on the Senate floor. I am sure they are very proud of JOHN, as they should be. He has been a real good son.

He is well educated. He is a doctor of veterinary medicine. He is someone who has been a successful businessman, both in the veterinary field and also in the business field. More important than that, JOHN ENSIGN has something his parents are more proud of than how he has succeeded in his professional public life. They are more proud of how he succeeded in his personal life. His wife Darlene and he have been extraordinary parents. I called JOHN at home not long ago and Darlene took the phone. I said: Could I speak to JOHN; what is he doing? She said: He is on the bed playing with the kids. That is what dads are supposed to be doing.

Mr. President, Mayor LaGuardia in New York City started a saying that we all use now: There is no Democratic or Republican way of cleaning the streets. That is true. In that same vein, there is no Democratic or Republican way of handling the problems that come to us in the State of Nevada, as they come to people in the State of Virginia. There is no strictly Democratic or Republican way of fixing the problems in the State of Nevada.

JOHN ENSIGN and I know that. That is why as soon as the election was over this past November he and I got together and said that we were going to set an example for the people of the State of Nevada. Everyone knew of the friendship of Richard Bryan and HARRY REID, but people were doubtful how HARRY REID and JOHN ENSIGN could represent the State of Nevada. Were we simply going to cancel each other's votes and be mean spirited about how we reacted to each other?

We were not going to vote the same way all the time, but we decided we would be gentlemen in the way that we handled the problems of the people of the State of Nevada. We believed there was no reason we couldn't become friends, just as HARRY REID and Richard Bryan were friends. While we are only a few months into this relationship, we both feel very good about it. We are on the road to setting an example for having the best bipartisan relationship in the history of the State of Nevada. We are going to try to do that. We vow to work closely together to protect the interests of our home State and protect the interests of bipartisan-ship.

We are here now. The Senate is 50/50. It is not going to stay that way. We don't know how much longer, whether the Democrats are going to control the Senate or the Republicans. Regardless of that, ENSIGN and REID are going to work together and have a good bipartisan relationship.

I ask unanimous consent to speak for 2 additional minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Today Senator ENSIGN in his maiden speech talked about substantive issues. These are substantive issues he has talked about for a number of years. He feels strongly about education and other matters. I am very proud of his first speech. I can remember my first Senate speech. Presiding over the Senate that day was Senator David Pryor of Arkansas. I gave a speech on the Taxpayers' Bill of Rights. That is now law. I was very fortunate the man that ran the subcommittee that had jurisdiction over this issue liked what I said. CHUCK GRASSLEY was listening. He was also interested in this issue. Immediately I got bipartisan support for the legislation, and it became law.

I salute my friend JOHN ENSIGN for his first speech. I look forward to many years of service to the State of Nevada by JOHN ENSIGN. I look forward to many years of friendship between JOHN ENSIGN and HARRY REID.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I say to my good friend from Nevada—I call him that, too—he has welcomed me to the Senate. He has shown me the ropes. As he discussed, we are going to work for the people of the State of Nevada because there are a lot of issues that affect our State that are very unique to it. They are not Republican or Democratic issues. We have agreed to disagree on issues that we feel strongly about that are national issues, and that is fine. We hope to also set an example for the rest of the Senate of how one can agree or not agree but not be disagreeable.

I thank the senior Senator from Nevada. He is representing our State in the tremendous position he is in today. We in Nevada are all very proud of him. I thank Mr. REID for attending my maiden speech on the floor. I look forward to many great years of working together.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, as amended, the time until 11:17 shall be under the control of the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. THOMAS.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I thank the Senators from Nevada for their conversation. Certainly we have a lot of things in common with Nevada, mostly public lands. We don't have the gambling revenue, however.

I rise to speak a few moments today on energy and energy policy. Certainly,